

Matthews Gospel “The Sermon On The Mount”
“The Christian Prayer”
Matthew 6:5-8
Part–25

Jesus in The Sermon on the Mount make clear that a good thing can be done for the wrong reason.

We are looking at the section of **Matthew 6:1-18** - The **Christian and Devotion**

Jesus is concerned about our righteousness before Him - **Devotion** – *“Private obedience viewed by God”*

Matthew 6:1

Jesus is exposing the hypocritical lifestyle of the religious leaders in 3 areas:

1. V. 1-4 Giving - Don't be a hypocrite - sound the trumpet
2. V. 5-15 Prayer - Hypocrite - to be seen of men, flowery words
3. V. 16-18 Fasting - Neglect Appearance to be seen by men

We will look at 3 areas this morning:

1. Verses – 5-6 Avoid Praying For "looks"
2. Verse – 7 Don't Measure Prayer By The “words”
3. Verse – 8 Trust That The Father Knows Your Needs.

1. Verses – 5-6 Avoid Praying For "looks"

Jesus Starts With A Negative In Prayer:

You are not to be as the hypocrites: The word **hypocrites** Greek word hupokrites, *“an actor playing an assumed character (stage-player) Those that wear a mask speak under a mask”*

John R. W. Stott said, “They love to pray, but unfortunately it is not prayer which they love, nor the God we are supposed to be praying to. No, they love themselves and the opportunity which public praying gives them to parade themselves.”

Luke 18:9-14

Jesus Gives The Positive In Prayer:

Matthew 6:6

When you pray, go into your inner room and when you have shut your door

inner room - (*some read Closet*) *actually a storeroom* 1st Century in the homes they had only one room that had a door, it was the storeroom where they kept bread and valuables.

Why should we get alone with God?

- Distractions - get away – exclusions:
- Realization - Coming into the presence of God:
- God wants to communicate with us:

What if you get alone with the Lord and there is nothing there ... no peace, joy? You will need to ask ourselves some questions.

- What distractions are there?
- **Sin** - disobedience - will choke out that relationship **Psalms 66:18**

2. Verse – 7 Don't Measure Prayer By The "words."

Matthew 6:7

And when you are praying do not use meaningless repetition Literally – "*Vain babbling, stammering, mindless chatter, torrents of mechanical and mindless words.*"

(R.S.V) **Matthew 6:7** "And in praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words."

I Kings 18 - 450 Prophets of Baal. Morning till noon - "**Oh Baal answer us**" that is the Heathen way.

Acts 19:34 – The crowd chanted "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians" for 2 hours straight.

There are no Secret Words

There are no Special Formulas - See John 14:13-14 for a pattern of prayer

Be simple and get to the point:

- Luke 23:42
- Matthew 14:30
- Hebrews 4:14-16

3. Verse – 8 Trust That The Father Knows Your Needs Matthew 6:8

Therefore -

- Don't pray for the Looks of men - a show (spectators) Men ... not God
- Don't use meaningless Words - repetition (content) Our God is not like this.

do not be like them; Like the hypocrites (Pharisees), those that are men pleasers. (Pagans)

Psalms 139:4

- God is not ignorant - We do not need to instruct Him
- God is not hesitant - Do not need to persuade Him
- God loves us - We are born again - He is our Father

Application:

Why do we and why should we personally pray?

- We Pray - because it is an exercise of a genuine faith:
- We Pray - because there is a devil, and prayer is a God-appointed way to resist Him: (Ephesians 6:12-13, 18).
- We Pray - because prayer is God's way for us to obtain what we need from Him: (Luke 11:3-13; James. 4:2).
- We Pray - because prayer is the means God has appointed for us to find "grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16).
- We Pray - because prayer with thanksgiving is God's way for us to obtain freedom from anxiety and to receive "the peace of God" (Philippians 4:6-7).
- We Pray - because we are commanded to in 1 Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing," and realize that God wants us to talk with Him:
- We Pray - because it helps us think through our requests to see if they are really for God's glory and in our best interests: 1 John 3:22